Section 14
VICTIM SUSPECT RELATIONSHIP

Coroner/Medical Examiner and Police Report

Supplementary Homicide Report

Victim to Suspect relation 1:   Rela1
Victim to Suspect relation 2:   Rela2

Name	Definition
Rela1	Description of relationship of the victim to the suspect
Rela2	Description of second relationship of the victim to the suspect

Uses
Data describing the relationship between the victim and the suspect are useful for developing and evaluating prevention programs and for characterizing various forms of family and intimate violence.

Discussion
This variable will be assigned by the abstractor for each victim-suspect (V-S) pair in an incident based on review of the CME report. The NVDRS software automatically "populates" the V-S Relation Table with victim-suspect pairs. Each person with a PType of 1 or 3 ("Victim" or "both") is paired with each person with a PType of 2 or 3 ("Suspect" or "both"). In complex incidents (which will be relatively rare), there will be times when a suspect in an incident is not a suspect for a particular victim. For example, if a young man stabs a bartender and is then shot himself by a police officer, there are two victims in the incident (the bartender and the young man) and two suspects (the young man and the police officer). Code the relationship between the bartender and the police officer as 88 (Not applicable) since the police officer wasn't a suspect in the first killing. Up to two codes can be selected for each victim-suspect pair. Use the second variable for cases such as when a victim is both a schoolmate and a rival gang member.

Use the following sentence as a guide for selecting the appropriate description of the relationship: the victim is the _____ of the suspect. For example, when a parent kills a child, the relationship is "Child" not "Parent." ("The victim is the child of the suspect.") Homosexual relationships should be coded in the same way as heterosexual relationships (e.g., "Girlfriend" or "Boyfriend"). The homosexual or heterosexual nature of the relationship will be inferred by the sex of the victim and suspect.

For this data element, an acquaintance is someone with or about whom the victim has had some prior interaction or knowledge. A stranger is someone with whom the victim has had no prior interaction before the event that culminated in the violent injury. For example, code the following scenario as "Stranger": two individuals who do not know each other play pool together, argue, then one stabs the other.

When more than one offender is working in concert in an incident (as in a drive-by shooter and his or her driver), code the victim's relationship to each offender. Do not use 88s in this situation to identify the offender who did not actually fire the weapon because all offenders working in concert are considered offenders on the Supplementary Homicide Report and in police reports. If the nature of the relationship is unknown, code "Rela1" as 99. If all relevant information regarding the relationship is captured in "Rela1", then code "Rela2" as 88 for: "All relevant information about relationship is already provided in Relation 1 "Not applicable."

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Rela1	Victim to Suspect Relation 1:	SV_Relation	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
Rela2	Victim to Suspect Relation 2:	SV_Relation	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME

Response Options:

Rela1
  and
Rela2

1	Spouse
2	Ex-spouse
3	Girlfriend or boyfriend
7	Ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend
8	Girlfriend or boyfriend, unspecified whether current or ex
10	Parent
11	Child
12	Sibling
13	Grandchild
14	Grandparent
15	In-law
16	Stepparent
17	Stepchild
18	Child of suspect's boyfriend/girlfriend (e.g., child killed by mom's boyfriend)
19	Intimate partner of suspect's parent (e.g., teenager kills his mother's boyfriend)
20	Foster child
21	Foster parent
29	Other family member (e.g., cousin, uncle, etc.)
30	Babysitter (e.g., child killed by babysitter)
31	Acquaintance
32	Friend
33	Roommate (not intimate partner)
34	Schoolmate
35	Current or former work relationship (e.g., co-worker, employee, employer)
36	Rival gang member
44	Other person, known to victim
45	Stranger
50	Victim was injured by law enforcement officer
51	Victim was law enforcement officer injured in the line of duty
88	Suspect is not a suspect for this victim
99	Relationship unknown

Data Standards or Guidelines
NVISS

Caretaker of victim: CareTk
History of abuse: Abuse

Name	Definition
CareTk	Was this suspect a caretaker of this victim
Abuse	History of abuse

Uses
These variables will help identify deaths resulting from intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and other forms of caretaker violence.

Discussion
CareTk: After indicating the relationship for each victim-suspect pair (Rela1 from previous page), determine whether the offender was a caretaker for the victim. Examples of caretakers include a parent who kills their child, a babysitter who kills his or her charge, a nursing home attendant who kills a patient, and an adult who kills a dependent elderly parent. This variable is included because some definitions of child abuse and elder abuse are based solely on whether the offender was the victim's caretaker.

Abuse: For each victim-suspect pair in which (1) the offender was a caretaker of the victim or (2) the offender was a current or ex-intimate partner, indicate whether the data sources document a history (or suspected history) of abuse of this victim by the suspect. The evidence of ongoing abuse may be suspected but not confirmed. For example, if the CME report states: "Husband shot wife after learning that she was having an affair. No history of previous police visits to the residence or restraining orders; neighbors indicate no previous problems," code Abuse as "No" to indicate that there is no evidence in the record of ongoing abuse. If the CME report states: "Stepparent killed child during an altercation. Family investigated by Child Protective Services last year," code Abuse as "Yes". Autopsy evidence reported as an indication of previous abuse is enough to endorse the Abuse variable.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
CareTk	Caretaker of victim:	SV_Relation	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR
Abuse	History of abuse:	SV_Relation	Checkbox	1	O/O	CME/PR

Response Options:
CareTk
    and
  Abuse
      0   No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown
      1   Yes

Data Standards or Guidelines
NVISS

Victim to suspect relationship: SRelat

Name	Definition
SRelat	Social relationship of victim to suspect reported in SHR

Uses

Data describing the relationship between the victim and the person who caused the injury are useful for developing and evaluating prevention programs and for characterizing various forms of family and intimate partner violence.

Discussion

"SRelat" should capture the victim-suspect relationship exactly as it appears in the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Codes should be entered exactly as they appear in the source database, even if the abstractor believes an individual code was chosen in error. If your state uses any codes for relationship that do not appear in the standard FBI code list below, find out from your state UCR office how it will be mapped to the standard national codes, and enter that code. If the SHR is not available, code the case as 88 (Not applicable). The SHR also captures the link between each victim and suspect in an incident. That information can be recorded here. It may be useful if the SHR is the only source of such information for an incident. For homicides with more than one victim or suspect recorded on the SHR, the victim-suspect relationship is frequently inaccurate. Law enforcement may list the relationship between the first victim and the first suspect as the relationship with all subsequent victims or suspects. States should check to see whether each relationship is accurately coded in their state. They may prefer to use this information when there is only one victim and one suspect.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
SRelat	Victim to suspect relationship:	SV_Relation	Number	2	O	SHR

Response Options:
SRelat

1	Husband
2	Wife
3	Common-law husband
4	Common-law wife
5	Mother
6	Father
7	Son
8	Daughter
9	Brother
10	Sister
11	In-law
12	Stepfather
13	Stepmother

14	Stepson
15	Stepdaughter
16	Other Family
17	Neighbor
18	Acquaintance
19	Boyfriend
20	Girlfriend
21	Ex-husband
22	Ex-wife
23	Employee
24	Employer
25	Friend
26	Homosexual Relationship
27	Other – Known to Victim
28	Stranger
88	Not applicable
99	Relationship Unknown

Data Standards or Guidelines
FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Supplementary Homicide Report